

Shutdown Prevention Act (H.R. 3583). The Congressional Leadership must be prevented from using the threat of a government shutdown to ratchet up federal spending.

I have called on the President to use his veto pen on appropriations bills for the last two years. The current Congressional spending spree has led to a situation where appropriations exceed Administration requests by about \$23 billion. As a result, there are veto threats on 10 out of the 12 House passed spending bills. It is my belief that the time is long overdue for federal lawmakers to end their fiscal indulgence. The problem is not that Americans are under-taxed, but that government spends too much.

The Government Shutdown Prevention Act is necessary to ensure that seniors, veterans, and other Americans are not used as pawns in the federal spending game. This legislation would do the following:

- It would automatically continue government funding in the event that Congress fails to provide spending authority—in other words, the government keeps running.
- If Congress fails to otherwise make provisions to keep the government open, the continuing resolution (the automatic bill that continues funding) would become effective on the day spending authority lapses.
- The spending level for each program would be set at the lower of the spending level provided in the previous fiscal year, or the House and Senate approved spending bills, as has become routine.
- The automatic fallback continuing resolution would lapse as soon as Congress finishes work on the appropriations bills or a new continuing resolution is enacted.

This important legislation is essential to protect the most vulnerable of our citizens while at the same time reducing the leverage of those who are in favor of ever expanding federal spending. I am pleased to join with Congressman Hensarling in introducing H.R. 3583.

Sincerely,

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Contact Information

<u>Washington Office</u>: 2262 Rayburn HOB - Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5716 - Fax: (202) 226-1298

<u>District Office</u>: 2339 Gold Meadow Way, Suite 220 - Gold River, CA 95670 Phone: (916) 859-9906 - Fax: (916) 859-9976

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